



PALOMA CREEK

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 10, 2019

****Denton County Fresh Water Supply Districts of Paloma Creek Enter into Agreement with Little Elm Police Department for Law Enforcement Services ****

The Directors of the Denton County Fresh Water Supply Districts of Paloma Creek recently entered into an interlocal cooperation agreement with the Town of Little Elm Police Department for law enforcement services. The Little Elm Police Department's goal is to start taking calls in Paloma Creek on or about October 1, 2019.

The districts recognize that the estimated 15,000 residents of Paloma Creek, continues to have an impact on Denton County resources, especially the Sheriff's Department. The General Manager for the water districts of Paloma Creek, Greg Wilkerson stated, "The Districts look forward to the Little Elm Police Department providing services to our residents within our district boundaries and to take the responsibility for our fair share of the call load that is coming to the Sheriff's Office. We also look forward to being able to add to the overall law enforcement presence along the 380 corridor".

DCFWS 11-A President, Greg Hix, stated, "The board of directors is excited, the residents are excited, and we have nothing but high hopes for the added police services moving forward". Wilkerson added, "All five of the water districts that make up the Paloma Creek neighborhood are proud of the fact that the districts will be able to provide for these services without raising the tax rate. The districts will utilize their current operational funding to support these new services provided by the Little Elm Police Department".

In an effort to answer potential questions from residents about this important public safety initiative, the districts have provided a fact sheet as a part of this release. "We want our residents to feel confident about this upcoming change and we don't want any false information out there to cause unnecessary concern amongst them. This is a great endeavor!", said DCFWS #11-A Vice President, Cynthia Carmack.

CONTACTS: Greg Wilkerson, General Manager
Denton County Fresh Water Supply Districts of Paloma Creek
alresources@att.net



PALOMA CREEK

Little Elm Police Department Law Enforcement Services Fact Sheet:

Why are we using Little Elm Police Department?

For years, the Denton County Fresh Water Supply Districts of Paloma Creek, have contracted for extra patrols with Denton County Sheriff's Office and most recently, off-duty officers to ensure adequate safety, security and protection of our residents. Residents and your elected board members recognize the impact that approximately 15,000 residents have on the Denton County Sheriff's Office. After hearing your repeated concerns and complaints about needing more police presence and the lack of ability of our off-duty officers to enforce traffic violations, the districts began researching the feasibility of utilizing the Little Elm Police Department for law enforcement services. After multiple meetings, a plan was developed to move forward. Motions were made in open sessions by your elected directors and the motions passed unanimously to enter into an agreement with the Little Elm Police Department.

When will the Little Elm Police Department services be operational?

Your elected directors, in collaboration with the Little Elm Police Department, have established a goal to "go-live" with the Little Elm Police Department services on or about October 1, 2019. If there are any delays, the districts will keep you informed.

How will the Little Elm Police Department services be funded, and will the Police Department cause our taxes to increase?

Your elected directors have worked hard over the past few years to not only reduce tax rates, but also increase exemptions to senior citizens and still fund these services out of current operational revenue. Your taxes will not increase because of the new agreement with the Little Elm Police Department.

Will the police department cause my HOA dues to increase?

Absolutely not. The agreement for services by the Little Elm Police Department is funded out of the Denton County Fresh Water Supply Districts operational budget. The agreement is not with the HOA and the services are not funded in any way by the HOA.

Will we still be under the jurisdiction of the Denton County Sheriff's Office?

The Denton County Sheriff's Office has jurisdiction throughout Denton County. The difference you will see as a resident is the fact the Little Elm Police Department will now respond to all your calls, take your reports and investigate any crimes within the districts. You may still see Denton County Sheriff's deputies in and around the district as they may still assist Little Elm Police Department for mutual aid as needed, just like the fire departments do.



PALOMA CREEK

Little Elm Police Department Law Enforcement Services Fact Sheet (Cont.):

Will the Little Elm Police Department be able to enforce traffic laws?

Yes, Little Elm police officers can and will enforce all state criminal and traffic laws. They can and will issue citations for traffic and parking violations. They will also be able to enforce the state law for abandoned vehicles.

Will the Little Elm Police Department serve as code enforcement or enforce HOA rules and regulations?

Absolutely not. The Little Elm Police Department will only enforce state traffic and criminal laws. They are not employed by the HOA nor do they have anything to do with HOA regulations or HOA related matters.

Will the Little Elm Police Department officers have the power to arrest criminals?

Yes! The Little Elm Police Department will deploy several full-time, sworn peace officers who are employees of the Little Elm Police Department. The Little Elm Police Department and their officers will be taking the place of the off-duty officers that have patrolled the districts for the past few years.

Can the Little Elm Police Department handle major crimes, or will they have to rely on Denton County Sheriff's Office for that?

The Little Elm Police Department will have a capable team of sworn officers with experience in major case investigations. As such, they are prepared to handle all criminal investigations that come in. Like any other agency, they always appreciate the assistance from the Sheriff's Office and Texas Rangers when and if needed on large scale investigations.

Will the Little Elm police officers be like other city police officers and have the necessary training, competitive pay, and benefits?

The Little Elm police officers will have regular and ongoing training to meet and/or exceed the state minimum requirements. In addition, they ensure their pay and benefits remain competitive as compared to other similar sized police agencies in our area.

How will the Little Elm police officers be dispatched?

The Little Elm police officers will be dispatched by the Denton County Sheriff's Office. The Little Elm Police Department has an interlocal agreement with the Sheriff's Office to provide these services. When you dial 9-1-1 or call the non-emergency number, you will be identified as a Paloma Creek resident and the Sheriff's Office will dispatch a Little Elm officer to you. The only difference will be that a Little Elm police officer will respond to you now instead of a Denton County Sheriff's Office deputy. In addition, a Little Elm police commander, dedicated to the districts of Paloma Creek, will be stationed and housed out of Little Elm Fire Department Station #3 on Navo Rd.

#####